

Commissioner's Weekly Field Memo
Friday, May 29, 2015

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Action Item Calendar

Today (May 29): 2016 [PARCC administration](#) survey due

Monday (June 1): [Asset Protection Plans](#) due

Tuesday (June 2): [Student contact](#) file due

June 5: Preliminary [CEIS data](#) due

June 5: School [Health](#) report due

June 5: Preliminary [Homeless](#) and Title I files due

June 5: [Disproportionality](#) Performance Report due

June 16: Preliminary CTE collection due (see [below](#))

June 17: [CEIS Report](#) due

June 19: Homeless, Title I, EIS collections due (see [below](#))

June 24: Principals to sign off on rosters (see [below](#))

June 30: [Dual-enrollment](#) polices completed

June 30: [Preschool](#) Performance Report due

June 30: Final CTE collection due (see [below](#))

July 1: [CRP](#) due

July 10: [Educator-evaluation](#) reports due

July 15: [Special Education](#) Performance Report due

July 15: [Housing Aid](#) forms due

Notes from Commissioner Gist

1. RIDE, Exceed partners release report on Early Learning Challenge progress

I am pleased to let you know that the RIDE team and our partner agencies on the Exceed initiative have released a report, “Laying the Foundation for Rhode Island’s Future Workforce,” which highlights the accomplishments attained during the third year of our Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge initiative. In this [report](#) to the General Assembly, we share the progress we have made toward developing high-quality, early childhood programs and a highly skilled early learning workforce and toward improving developmental outcomes for children.

2. High-school students encouraged to participate in Advanced Placement, dual enrollment

Rhode Island high-school students will receive letters next week from Governor Raimondo and me encouraging them to consider advanced coursework pathways through Advanced Placement (AP) and dual-enrollment programming. Through College Board [AP Potential Initiative](#), RIDE has identified more than 3,000 high-school students who are likely to succeed in AP and dual-enrollment courses, based on their most recent PSAT scores. The letter congratulates students on their hard work, provides them with web links to receive more information about AP courses and dual-enrollment programming, and encourages them to speak with their school counselor about options that may be best for their passions and future goals. If you have questions about this

communication, please contact Stephen Osborn, at Stephen.Osborn@ride.ri.gov.

3. Team from Esek Hopkins selected as national finalist in NASA STEM Challenge

Two weeks ago, teams from eight Rhode Island middle schools participated in the NASA STEM Challenge, which took place at Rhode Island College. NASA and the U.S. Department of Education selected one of the teams, The Little Einsteins, from the Esek Hopkins Middle School (in Providence), as one of seven national finalists in the challenge, based on their creativity, use of the engineering design process, and data collection and analysis. The Providence After School Alliance (PASA) AfterZone program organized and sponsored the Esek Hopkins team. Congratulations to the students from Esek Hopkins, to our partners at PASA, and to all of the Rhode Island students who participated in this challenge!

From RIDE

Educator Certification:

4. Public comment sought on new certification test

ETS, the testing company that Rhode Island uses for certification requirements, is adding a new test and phasing out an older test. There is currently one test (Early Childhood Education 5025) has been regenerated to align with the Common Core standards and that affects our work in Rhode Island. Therefore, RIDE is seeking public comment from the education community and the general public on the proposed new certification test, and its

passing score, as a requirement for initial educator certification in Rhode Island.

You can read about standard-setting study that ETS used when developing the cut score for this new test at:

http://www.ets.org/praxis/states_agencies/adoption_process/standard_setting_studies/multistate/

To provide comments on the proposed certification test and passing score, please visit:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Certification-Updates>

and scroll down to the update section, or to go directly to Survey Monkey, at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJSBY6B> .

If you have any questions about this new test, please feel free to contact Hilda Potrzeba, at hilda.potrzeba@ride.ri.gov or 222-8891.

Data Collections and Data Quality:

5. Numerous data collections scheduled through next month – *Action Item*

The next six weeks will be a busy time for data managers, who have seven data collections due by the end of next month:

- [Student contact file](#) due on **Tuesday** (June 2);
- the School Health Report, due on June 5;

- the [preliminary files for Homeless Children & Youth, Title I, and Early Intervention Services \(EIS\)](#), due on June 5 (only LEAs that applied for EIS funds are required to submit EIS files;
- the preliminary [CTE collection](#), due **June 16**;
- the [final Homeless Children & Youth, Title I, and Early Intervention Services \(EIS\)](#) collection, due **June 19**; and
- the [final CTE collection](#), due **June 30**.

We recommend that you start working on these files now to ensure the quality of the data and timeliness of your submission. Information about upcoming data collections can be found on the [data collection calendar](#). Weekly collection webinars provide details regarding upcoming collections, along with a question-and-answer period.

6. *Reminder:* Instructional Support System can integrate data from local assessments

The Instructional Support System has the capability of integrating local assessment data from LEAs. We have collaborated with Renaissance Learning to integrate the STAR assessment data, with minimal effort by LEAs. Contact your Renaissance representative and ask for the data-sharing agreement to start receiving STAR data in the Instructional Support System. When your Renaissance data agreement has been submitted, please notify Greg Martin so that RIDE can monitor the progress of your data-sharing request.

If you have any questions concerning the integration of local assessment in the Instructional Support System, please contact Greg Martin, at gregory.martin@ride.ri.gov or 222-8495.

7. *Reminder:* Current stage of roster verification runs through June 5; principals to sign off on rosters by June 24

The initial stage (principals' review) of roster verification is complete. The second stage of review is currently open and will run through June 5. During this stage of the process, teachers are asked to review their rosters and principals are asked to monitor the status of their teachers' progress. Once this second stage is completed, principals are asked to verify and sign off on the rosters, between June 8 and **June 24**.

Updated user guides for principals and teachers are available at:

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/EducatorPerformanceandSupportSystem\(EPSS\).aspx](http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/EducatorPerformanceandSupportSystem(EPSS).aspx).

In preparation for this year's roster-verification process, all principals should be familiar with district policy regarding contributing educators. You can find updated guidance on Establishing Teacher-Course-Student Connections at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/TeachersAdministrators/EducatorEvaluation/GuidebooksForms.aspx#19333-other-guidance>.

For questions about roster verification, please submit a help desk ticket, at:

<https://support.ride.ri.gov>.

Assessments:

8. Educators invited to serve on stakeholder group to plan for new science assessment

As you may know, Rhode Island adopted the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) two years ago (May 2013). We are continuing to administer the NECAP Science assessment as we transition to the NGSS, but we plan to transition to a new assessment by the 2017-18 school year. As we begin to plan what that new assessment will look like, we would like to bring together a small group of educators to provide input on the priorities for the assessment design. We plan to meet approximately twice during the month of June; each meeting should last for about an hour. We would like to have stakeholder representation, including superintendents, curriculum directors, principals, and teachers. We will schedule exact dates once we know who is interested. Please complete the survey at the link below if you are interesting in participating.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6TBG2T2>

If you have questions about this initiative, please contact Phyllis Lynch, at Phyllis.lynch@ride.ri.gov.

From the U.S. Department of Education

9. Nominations sought for award for excellence in STEM mentoring

Please see this notice from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Communications and Outreach:

Do you know someone who has been a role model and mentor to others within the science, technology,

engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines? If so, please consider nominating her or him for the [President's Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring](#), which recognizes outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation and retention of students and early career investigators, with a special emphasis on those who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in STEM fields. Nominations, including self-nominations, will be accepted until **June 19**.

RIDE will post this field memo on Tuesday, at:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/CommissionerDeborahAGist/FieldMemos.aspx>